
Serial No. 10/626,497**Remarks**

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 1 recites a portable data storage device, which includes, *inter alia*, an interface unit for transferring information with an external device and receiving power supplied from the external device, wherein the power supplied is sufficient for operation of at least the hard disk unit.

As expressly set forth in claim 1, the interface unit performs at least two claimed functions: 1) transfer information with an external device; and 2) receive power supplied from the external device, wherein the power supplied is sufficient for operation of at least the hard disk unit. The combination of Fletcher and Ditzik has not been found to suggest or reasonably disclose the claimed interface unit. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

While Fletcher makes references to various types of interfaces (e.g., Universal Serial Bus and IEEE 1394) for transferring information, Fletcher has not been found to disclose an interface unit that receives power supplied from an external device to power the hard disk unit.

According to Fletcher:

Suitable interface configurations include, for example, a Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface and IEEE 1394. With appropriate software installed on the external computer, a user may perform maintenance operations with regard to the content available on Storage Element 320. For example, a user may create playlists which are loaded onto the Storage Element. It should be appreciated that any form of digital information may be transferred to or from the Storage Element in this manner.

(Col. 11, lines 2-13). Fletcher further states:

Alternatively, the output may be provided to an audio or computer system. As described above, device 300 may incorporate a digital interface (see interface 328 in FIG. 2) at a suitable location on the housing. In this way,

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the device may interface with a user's computer at least for purposes of monitoring and controlling the digital music or other data saved on the Storage Element. The present invention further contemplates connection of device 300 to another portable device including, but not limited to another, identical portable device for purposes of data sharing.

(Col. 24, lines 45-54). Based on the foregoing, Fletcher appears to disclose maintenance, monitoring and controlling operations related to content of the information stored on the storage element. Fletcher has not been found to teach or otherwise disclose a hard disk unit that is operable by a power source supplied through the interface unit from an external device.

In the Office Action, the Examiner concedes that Fletcher does not explicitly teach the claimed interface unit. The Examiner attempts to supplement the teachings of Fletcher with Ditzik to purportedly arrive at the claimed interface unit. According to the Examiner:

Fletcher fails to explicitly teach an interface unit for receiving a power supplied from the external device, wherein the power supplied is sufficient for operation of at least the hard disk unit. However, Ditzik discloses such on (abstract, figs. 4(a)-4(b), col. 3., lines 58-62 and col. 7, lines 31-37). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to improve the device as disclosed by Fletcher with the above teachings from Ditzik, the motivation being an alternate source of power for the continuous performance of the device, hence maximum portability and performance.

(Office Action dated November 1, 2005 at pages 2-3). It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Fletcher and Ditzik does not disclose or reasonably suggest the claimed interface unit.

The passages of Ditzik relied upon by the Examiner refer to a battery power source unit 9 that may consist of one or more batteries with voltage regulation, AC/DC operation, power management circuits and charging circuitry. In a preferred embodiment Ditzik states that the unit should be capable of accepting electrical charge from an AC line and that an "important feature" of the invention is means for quickly interchanging an electrical power depleted battery power unit 9 with a freshly charged battery unit. Ditzik further provides that when the attached battery package is depleted, the user can quickly change out the battery sections. The user can then plug the

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depleted battery package into an AC line for a built-in charging operation. (Col. 7, lines 31-45).

Thus, Ditzik has been found to simply disclose a battery source unit that provides built-in charging operation for the primary battery unit through an AC line. Ditzik has not been found to disclose receiving power supplied from an external device (other than a battery power source unit 9 or AC line voltage), wherein the power supplied is sufficient for operation of at least the hard disk unit.

Thus, the combination of Fletcher and Ditzik has not been found to disclose or reasonably suggest an interface unit that is capable of both transferring information with an external device and receive power supplied from the external device, wherein the power supplied is sufficient for operation of at least the hard disk unit.

Further, the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, fail to cure the deficiencies of Fletcher and Ditzik, either alone or in combination. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom distinguish patentably over the references of record. Accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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